

# The Cat Doctor

**Monthly Newsletter**

**August 2009**

Welcome to the Cat Doctor monthly newsletter! Each month, we will highlight a particular feline issue that is of interest to both you and your kitty!

This month we will discuss inappropriate litter box use, also known as inappropriate elimination behavior.

It's important to educate clients about their cat's litter box care and normal elimination behavior in order to prevent and treat any medical and behavioral problems. Clients may assume that cats inappropriately urinate or defecate "to get back at their owner", when realistically this indicates an underlying medical condition.

There may be a number of conditions associated with a cat that is urinating inappropriately including urinary tract infection, lower urinary tract disease, kidney disease and diabetes mellitus. This behavior can also signify arthritis, where the cat experiences difficulty getting into the litter box.

A true veterinary emergency is blockage of the urinary tract. A blockage is treatable, but timing is critical. Once identified, the cat must receive veterinary care as soon as possible in order to avoid fatal complications which could develop. Watch for your cat to display the following signs: straining in the litter box with little or no results, crying when urinating, and frequent attempts to urinate.

If your kitty is exhibiting any symptoms of inappropriate litter box use, please call our office at 239-466-5007 to schedule an exam and consultation with Dr. Boyett.

Until next month,

Your Friends at the Cat Doctor

**The Cat Doctor**  
**18911-13 South Tamiami Trail**  
**Fort Myers, FL 33908**  
**Phone 239-466-5007**  
**Fax 239-466-8327**  
**[www.welikecats.com](http://www.welikecats.com)**